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found in Germany "a proportion considerably exceeding that of phanerogams generally. Now as it seems scarcely credible that orchids should possess means of transportation across the sea in preference to other plants, we must conclude that they inhabited the British Isles before their separation from the Continent, which involves that they have occupied stations near the present coasts of Germany or France previous to a great deal of plants that reached these coasts only subsequently to the formation of the Channel." He also adduces the fact that the British orchids belong to very different groups of the order, enhancing the argument for antiquity based on their geographical distribution.

§ 330. **Bud Variation in Bananas.**—Fritz Miller writes (*Nature*, June 12): "In my garden there is a large plant (planted about eleven years ago) of a variety of banana, distinguished by purplish stems and petioles, red fruits, and by a very peculiar flavor of the latter. From the centre of this plant, covered by the rotten stems of former years, there are now growing green stems, with green petioles; one of them has already produced fruits, which were green when immature, and yellow when ripe, and the flavor of which I found to be but slightly altered. All the young stems growing from the circumference of the plant are purplish. May not many of the varieties of bananas have been produced by bud variation?"

§ 332. **Plantago Patagonica**, Jacq. *var. aristata*, Gray.—The Rev. S. W. Knipe, of Delaware Water Gap, Pa., found this plant in Southern New Jersey, June 28th. He says: "I saw but one locality, that by the side of the road leading south along the west bank of Maurice River, about a half mile below Millville, Cumberland Co., N. J. The plant was abundant for a distance of a rod or two, and is no doubt well established there." This is a very interesting discovery, the nearest station that we have heard of being Illinois.

§ 333. **Antidromy.**—Prof. W. W. Bailey, in the June No. of the *Botanical Gazette* describes the alternation in the convolution of the flowers on the same branch of *Mahernia verticillata*, L. A similar case is that of *Lechea*, and probably other Cistaceae. But in this order, as is well known "the petals are convolute in the opposite direction from the calyx in the bud." What is not so well known is that in *Lechea* the calices of the different flowers on the same branch alternate in the direction of their convolution, so that we have in this case a double antidromy, that of petals compared with calyx, and that of calyx compared with calyx, or flower with flower. The term *antidromy* is thus explained by Dr. Gray in the new edition of his text book, p. 157: "The phyllotaxy of each successive axis of the sympode changes from right to left and from left to right alternately." By *sympodium* is meant "a stem made of a series of superposed branches in a way to imitate a simple axis."

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